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## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 24-HOUR REPORT

**12 JANUARY 2018**

#### **(U) CALIFORNIA**

##### **(U) San Diego – Mexican Cartel Leader Pleads Guilty to US Smuggling Charges**

(U) The highest-ranking member of a Mexican cartel to ever surrender to US authorities has pleaded guilty to drug smuggling charges, acknowledging he orchestrated the shipments of thousands of kilograms of methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin to the US. Damaso Lopez Serrano, 29, entered his plea on 10 January in federal court in San Diego, nearly six months after turning himself over at California's border with Mexico, the highest-ranking Mexican cartel leader to do so, the US attorney's office said. His father, Damaso Lopez Nunez, was arrested in Mexico City in May 2017 and had been battling for control of the Sinaloa cartel following the 2016 arrest of billionaire kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman. Mexican officials have blamed Lopez Nunez for instigating violence in the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa and the peninsula of Baja California, including a string of killings around Cabo San Lucas. US authorities are seeking Lopez Nunez's extradition. Guzman was sent to the US last year to face drug charges.

SOURCE: 11 January 2018, [Associated Press](#)

##### **(U) San Diego – Marijuana Dispensary Raided**

(U) San Diego County Sheriff's deputies seized about 300 pounds of marijuana and cannabis products from an illegal pot dispensary in Spring Valley yesterday morning. Deputies with county code enforcement officials served a search warrant about 8 a.m. at The Bakery on Birch Street. Several people in the area had complained about the apparent illegal activity at the shop, sheriff's Sgt. Matt Cook said. Deputies confiscated marijuana, edibles, paraphernalia, \$3,779 in cash and other items. All medical and non-medical marijuana facilities have been banned in the unincorporated area of San Diego County since April 2017. Proposition 64, permitting recreational use of marijuana in California, went into effect on 1 January but allowed local authorities to decide whether to approve or ban dispensaries.

SOURCE: 11 January 2018, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

#### **(U) NATIONAL**

##### **(U) New York – Accused NYC Subway Bomber Pleads Not Guilty to Terrorism Charges**

(U) New York – The Bangladeshi man accused of attempting an Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS)-inspired suicide bomb attack on a busy New York City commuter hub last month pleaded not guilty yesterday to federal terrorism charges. "At this moment, not guilty," said Akayed Ullah, 27, when US District Judge Richard Sullivan asked him for his plea at a hearing in federal court in Manhattan. The charges against Ullah include supporting a foreign terrorist organization, using a weapon of mass destruction and carrying out a terrorist attack against a mass transit system. Ullah faces life in prison if convicted.

SOURCE: 11 January 2018, [Reuters](#)

##### **(U) New York – MS-13 Gang Members Indicted in Machete Killing of Long Island Boy**

(U) New York – A grand jury indicted 17 alleged members and associates of MS-13 on charges related to the machete killing of a 13-year-old boy, other murders and drug trafficking following a seven-month investigation that spanned several states, officials announced yesterday. The Nassau County District

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Attorney said the county and the DEA started the investigation into the gang's activities in May 2017, identifying activities that stretched from New York to New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and Texas. It started with a focus on narcotics trafficking but expanded to encompass murder and other acts of violence, including the killing of a 15-year-old Long Island boy, and focused on the "Hollywood" and "Sailors" cliques of MS-13 on Long Island. Officials said the Long Island clique leaders answered to leaders in El Salvador, and sent them proceeds from criminal activity.

SOURCE: 11 January 2018, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) France – Al-Qa’ida Terrorist Attacks Four French Guards**

(U) Paris — An al-Qa’ida terrorist attacked four guards with a razor blade at a French prison yesterday, just weeks before he becomes eligible for extradition to the US to face charges for his involvement in 9/11. German national Christian Ganczarski, who is believed to have been an advisor to former al-Qa’ida leader Osama bin Laden, reportedly launched himself at prison officers after hearing that he may face extradition to the US for his role in the 9/11 attacks. In 2009, Ganczarski was jailed in France for 18 years over being one of the masterminds behind an attack on a synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia, in 2002. Some 21 people were killed when a bomber drove a tanker truck filled with gas into the synagogue. Ganczarski's sentence was due to end in February. He is wanted for extradition by the US in connection with the 9/11 investigation. He was an accomplice of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who is imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay.

SOURCE: 12 January 2018, [International Business Times](#)

**(U) Germany – Palestinian Pleads Guilty to Hamburg Terror Attack**

(U) Hamburg — A 26-year-old Palestinian man admitted in court today of killing a man and wounding six others with a knife in a Hamburg supermarket, an attack that stoked fears of Islamist terrorism in Germany. Ahmad Alhaw took an eight-inch knife from the shelves of a supermarket in July 2017, using it to kill one and wound six in the assault. He was arrested after passers-by overpowered him. Charging him with murder, as well as six counts of attempted murder and grievous bodily harm, prosecutors said he acted with an Islamist motive.

SOURCE: 12 January 2018, [Associated Foreign Press](#)

**(U) Turkey – Ankara Reveals Number of Terrorists Killed in 2017**

(U) Ankara — According to an annual report on Turkey's fight against terrorism, Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) reportedly killed 7,016 terrorists in security operations in 2017; of whom, 3,777 were members of ISIS and 3,239 were members of the PKK. Reporting on its fight against the Gülenist Terror Group, the TSK said 9,236 people were discharged, while 5,399 were arrested. As the northern border of Syria and Iraq, Turkey serves as a strategic entry point for ISIS-Inspired fighters who seek to join the terror organization in theatres of conflict.

SOURCE: 12 January 2018, [Vestnik Kavkaza](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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